

#### BEHEMOTH:

- Bibliography: Ulrich Magin: Evolution of Water Monsters, in INFO Journal xii: 4, 1989: 26 - 29, 35. Same issue (p. 22) has a note on the Lake Karnaci monster in China. The Times, 17. May, p.3 a-c, has an article about the problem of salmon farms in Scottish lochs.

#### ISIS:

- Lizard Man: The American magazine UFO (vol.3, No. 4, 1988), on p.7/8, has an interesting article on the lizard man affair, written by Mark Chorvinsky and Mark Opsasnick.

Probably of interest is that, prior to the outbreak of lizard man sightings, there was an increase in reports of Bigfoot as well. The latest issue of Pursuit (21: 2, 1988) has four relevant reports for this time: a Bigfoot seen on June 3, 1988, at Pinetown, North Carolina (p.73), one on June 1, in Carbondale, Illinois (a 8 - 10 ft monster) (p.91), a 7ft monster with thick fur on May 5, near Jonesboro, Arkansas (p.92), and one with reddish fur, and very big, on May 17, 1988, at Loyalhanna Creek, Pennsylvania (p.92). I think the sightings of the lizard man may be connected to this minor outbreak of wild men reports.

#### LEVIATHAN:

- England: The Nessletter 92, Feb 1989, reports on a sea serpent sighting off Weston-Super-Mare in the Bristol Channel. On Dec 12, 1988, Mr C E Holloway from Ontario saw a "fast-moving dark object" in the sea. He could observe it for several minutes, it resembled "a whale breaching" or a "fast moving boat". On several occasions it raised a long neck out of the water. The news report quoted says this was not the first instance a sea monster had been observed off Weston, one had been observed 20 years ago off Sea Mills, and another one 50 years ago.

I believe I have the one 50 years ago in my files. The Cornish Echo, Aug 27, 1937, p.7e, reports that on August 23, off Weston-Super-Mare, Fred Hobbs and several others had seen a sea serpent. It had its "head out of water, and several humps on its back". When the party went up hill to a better position for observation, they found that the only thing in the sea was a school of porpoises. Maybe these animals had created the many-humped aspect of the sea serpent.

- Philippines: On May 16, 1989, the nine-tonne vessel Albert sank during a storm off the southeastern tip of Luzon Island. Five passengers survived, one of them, Emilia Briones, 25, told the national daily Inquirer that the five stayed on a makeshift raft for five days when they spotted a "giant sea turtle". "They tied the raft to one of the turtle's legs and

the big amphibian towed the craft for two hours before they were spotted by fishermen in the coastal town of Presentacion, about 320 km southeast of Manila." This AP report comes from the Saudi Gazette, May 22, p.5a. Just how monstrous this sea turtle was is hard to say. Living Wonders, by Rickard and Michell, lists two more rescues by "giant sea turtles", one from Central America, and one from the Philippines.

- Florida: The "three-toed sea monster" of 1948 has become a classic. Investigated by Ivan T Sanderson, it was mentioned by several authors, including Willy Ley. Pursuit 21: 2, 1988: 72, reprints an article which exposes that the whole affair was a hoax!

#### KRAKEN:

- Florida: Gerard van Leusden has sent me a scientific paper from the Proc.Biol.Soc. Wash. 94(4), 1981: 753 - 760, on a "Small, mature male Architeuthis" by Ronald B Toll and Steven C Hess. The giant squid was found in the stomach of a swordfish caught



Another unsubstantiated photograph of the Loch Ness monster (taken by Reuben Hicks, 5/24/84, Chicago)

by the sportfishing vessel Wildcatter in the Straits of Florida off Fort Lauderdale on June 21, 1978. This was a small squid, and the authors suggest that it was "a new taxon of architeuthid that does not attain great size", or that "maturation may be followed by substantial growth".

#### USO:

- Bibliography: Gary Mangiacopra on Strange Meteors over the sea: Pursuit, 21: 2, 1988: 67 - 71. One of the cases he mentions is very interesting, the strange meteor observed by the St Andrews. The same witnesses observed a sea serpent at the same time. - A haunted ship, see Info xii: 4, 1989. - On May 6, p.27, the Times had a large report on USOs in the Irish Sea.

- Sweden: A Soviet Navy officer denied in April that Soviet subs violate Swedish territorial waters. Captain Valeri Mjasnikow wrote in Svenska Dagbladet that the unidentified subs were actually West German! (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18. April 1989, p.8b) Or, Swedish? A trawler caught a submarine in Swedish waters in mid-April - it was identified as a Swedish sub! (Rheinpfalz, April 21, 1989, p.2).

- Other net incidents: In May, a Norwegian trawler caught a sub off the Shetlands - this time it was a French one. (Rheinpfalz, 24. May, Rhein-Zeitung, 24. May, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 25. May, p.7d). - On June 14, an American submarine got entangled in the trawl of the Barcona off Long Island near Los Angeles and dragged the vessel underwater. (Rheinpfalz, 16. June; Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 17. June, p.9d; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 16. June, p.9a) - With all this innocent fishing vessel constantly being sunk by American, French, German, etc. submarines - why, if hundreds of Soviet subs do violate the Skandinavian waters, do we never hear of trawlers sunk by the technical inferior Soviet subs? The only net incidents I have collected from Skandinavia can be traced back to NATO craft!

#### CRYPTOZOLOGY:

- Scotland: On the snow-covered summit of Mam Sodhail, Glen Affric, Chris Brasher found yeti-like tracks on May 14, 1989: "The print was clear in the snow, about 4 inches long by 3 and a half wide, with 5 sharp claws... we followed the tracks until we lost them on some rock...we received the bad news...that my camera has been malfunctioning. The shots of the Beast's footprints are overlain by later shots." (The Times, 20. May, p.46). This is a little bit for everyone: the sceptics will claim, quite correctly, that this shows that yeti-footprints are caused by certain atmospheric conditions and therefore may be found everywhere, folklorists like myself will note that it is not uncommon to find several mythological monsters in the same region (here, the bat man of Barrisdale, Nessie and now the Glen Affric monster) and Keel and Holiday would probably note the camera's malfunctioning as a proof that some mysterious paranormal entity was involved.

- John A Keel: I have just received John Keel's newest book Disneyland of the Gods. It is written in a noisy, journalistic style and full of mistakes. Keel claims there have been 3000 Nessie sightings, a complete nonsense number, he says the Bermuda Triangle is in the South Atlantic, or that the infamous photo of a landed saucer taken by Monguzzi is genuine - while, actually, it has been proved over 20 years ago that it is a hoax. I have always liked Keel's books despite their many mistakes and lack of documentation - but this one is a shame. The gosh-what style is unbearable, he hardly gets a fact right, speculates & invents until you think he is nuts. Especially the sections on Cryptozoology are too poor.

- Madrid, Spain: A big serpent was killed by a dog in the Garden of the Plaza de Cataluña in the capital. It was 1.5 m (5 ft) in length, and of yellow and black colour. It was killed on May 1, 1989, and could not be identified by experts, according to the Madrid daily ABC, May 4, p.87c). This may well have been an escaped pet serpent. In Spain, summer in the newspapers starts with the serpiente de verano, the summer serpent, a report about some large monster serpent killed or seen in Spain, just as the anglo-saxon silly seasons usually starts with a sea serpent report.

This is all for today, the next Bilk will be in September. I will probably be on a hiking tour through Scotland in August, avoiding Loch Ness with my camera ready for any yetis that me cross my path. Your contributions are always welcomed. Have a nice summer.